

shown in SEQ ID NO:17 or has a nucleotide sequence with a degree of homology that it can homologously recombine with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:17.

3. (Twice Amended) The isolated coryneform bacterium according to Claim 2, wherein the argR gene encodes the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:18 or an amino acid sequence which is encoded by an argR gene with a degree of homology that it can homologously recombine with the argR gene coding for the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:18.

Please add the following claims:

20. (New) A method of producing L-arginine, comprising culturing the coryneform bacterium of Claim 2 in a medium to produce and accumulate L-arginine in the medium, and collecting the L-arginine from the medium.

21. (New) A method of producing L-arginine, comprising culturing the coryneform bacterium of Claim 3 in a medium to produce and accumulate L-arginine in the medium, and collecting the L-arginine from the medium.